

Summary:

Foreign Visitor Survey 2000

Summer season

Table A presents the volume and distribution of foreign tourist arrivals and guest nights in Norway in the summer season (May – September 2000).

Table A: Foreign business and holiday travel in Norway, summer season (May – September) 2000 (in thousands). Border registration when leaving Norway.

	Total	By road	By ferry	By air	By rail
Arrivals in total	3,265	1,339	527	576	53
- Day trips	623	484	97	37	5
- Cruise passengers (day visits)	770				
- Overnight stays	1,872	855	430	539	48
-- arrivals, business trips	335	69	31	230	5
-- arrivals, holiday trips	1,537	786	399	308	43
Guest nights in total	14,688	5,229	5,044	4,079	336
- Guest nights, business trips	1,878	305	307	1,231	35
- Guest nights, holiday trips	12,810	4,924	4,737	2,848	301

A total of nearly 3.3 million foreigners visited Norway during the 2000 summer season. These visitors spent 14.7 million guest nights in the country. About 1.9 million visitors stayed overnight in Norway, while 620,000 arrived on a day trip and 680,000 as cruise passengers.

82 per cent of the overnight visitors came on a holiday, and 18 per cent were business travellers. Holiday visitors spent 12.8 million guest nights in Norway, and the number of business guest nights amounted to nearly 1.9 million.

About 1.3 million visitors travelled by road, 580,000 by air, 530,000 by ferry and 50,000 by rail. Holiday guests used road and ferry connections most frequently, whereas foreign business travellers tended to travel by air.

Compared with the summer season in the previous year the total number of arrivals of day visitors increased by one per cent, while the total number of arrivals among visitors who stayed overnight decreased by four per cent, and the total number of guest nights fell by one per cent. This decline was registered for both holiday visitors and business travellers. There was a reduction in the total arrivals by road while the number of international arrivals by ferry, air and rail were at the same level as in the previous year.

Day visitors crossed the border most frequently by road. The majority of this type of visitor were from Sweden.

Among those who stayed overnight on their trip, the average length of stay was about eight nights (Table B). The most important source markets for overnight visits are Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Finland, the UK, the USA and the Netherlands. About 400,000 visitors from Sweden and about 400,000 visitors from Germany spent at least one night in Norway during the summer season in the year 2000.

Table B: Foreign guest nights in Norway, summer season (May – September) 2000, by country of residence and transport mode at the point of departure from Norway. Figures are in thousands except average length of stay, which is in number of nights per person.

	Total	Length of stay	By road	By ferry	By air	By rail
Total	14,688	7.9	5,229	5,044	4,079	336
Sweden	1,722	4.4	1,209	226	193	94
Denmark	1,631	6.9	620	786	208	17
Finland	714	3.8	620	0	91	3
United Kingdom	1,050	8.6	45	218	777	10
The Netherlands	1,069	11.1	392	473	195	9
Belgium	220	9.2	88	69	62	1
France	560	8.5	152	81	324	3
Germany	4,664	11.6	1,390	2,966	269	39
Italy	277	9.2	142	31	85	19
Switzerland	284	8.9	81	41	150	12
Austria	201	8.7	129	28	39	5
Spain	123	6.8	54	4	61	4
Other Europe	584	8.2	292	98	180	14
USA	1,012	10.2	0	24	933	55
Other nations	578	8.4	15	0	512	51

The length of stay varied among the countries of origin. Germany was the largest single foreign market in terms of number of guest nights. However, countries like Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA were also important source markets for the Norwegian tourist industry.

There has been a significant decline in the number of guest nights among visitors from Germany and Sweden during the past two summer seasons. In the other main markets there have been only minor changes in the volume of tourist traffic.

Persons living in Sweden constituted the largest percentage of arrivals associated with *business trips*, and Sweden, Denmark and the UK had equal shares of the total number of guest nights. There was also substantial business traffic from the USA and Germany.

In the summer season 1.5 million foreign *holiday travellers* visited Norway. Each individual spent an average of 8.5 nights in the country. During the holiday season, most arrivals (25 per cent) and most guest nights (35 per cent) were German. Sweden and Denmark were also important foreign source markets, and together with the Netherlands, the USA, the UK, Finland and France these countries dominated the foreign holiday traffic.

Holiday traffic by private motor vehicles and coaches constituted 75 per cent of all foreign holiday guest nights in Norway. Residents living in the neighbouring Nordic countries, in Germany, and in the Netherlands dominated this traffic by road and ferry. From 1999 to 2000, this traffic in the summer season decreased in terms of both the number of arrivals (5 per cent) and guest nights (3 per cent). Over the past six years the number of guest nights in this broad category of tourists has dropped by as much as 13 per cent. This is mainly due to the decline in the number of guest nights among tourists from Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands during the latter part of this period.

Table C: Percentage of foreign guest nights for all guests leaving the country by own vehicle, bus, rail or air, by type of accommodation. N = Number of guest nights in summer season (May – September) 2000 (thousands).

	Total	By car	By coach	By rail	By air
Total (N)	100 (14,688)	100 (8,895)	100 (1,367)	100 (336)	100 (4,090)
Hotel, pension, etc.	31	14	85	38	50
Camping at campsite	18	28	4	8	3
Camping outside campsite	6	9	0	8	1
Rented cabin	15	23	5	2	2
Own/ borrowed cabin	4	6	0	1	2
Friends, relatives	19	16	0	29	31
Other	7	4	6	14	11

Business and holiday travellers spent a total of 14.7 million guest nights in Norway during the summer period (Table C). These visitors mainly used three different types of commercial accommodations: hotels (31 per cent), camping at campsites (13 per cent) and rented cabins (15 per cent). In addition, overnight stays with friends and relatives (19 per cent), own/borrowed cabins and camping outside campsites were used.

Among motor tourists overnight stays in camping and cabin facilities were most frequently used. The coach tourists mostly stayed in hotels, and visitors going by air or rail mainly used hotels or private homes.

Among business travellers the percentage staying in hotels is high (54 per cent), whereas holiday visitors are relatively equally distributed among the four sectors hotel, cabin, camping and friends/relatives.

Year 2000

During the year as a whole a total of 5.1 million foreigners visited Norway. 3.2 million guests stayed overnight in the country while 1.2 million were on a day trip. In addition, 770,000 arrived on a day visit as cruise passengers.

780,000 overnight visitors came on a business trip, and 2.3 million came on a holiday. The total number of guest nights amounted to 21.7 million, of which holiday guests constituted 82 per cent.

The main part of the incoming tourist traffic is related to the summer season with 60 per cent of the arrivals of overnight guests taking place in the period May – September.

Compared to the previous year, a decline was registered among both regular day visitors and overnight guests from abroad. The number of overnight guests dropped by four per cent from 1999, primarily as a result of a reduction in the number of visits from the neighbouring countries, Sweden and Denmark. Border crossings by road have decreased while the traffic of foreigners arriving by ferry, air and rail has remained relatively unchanged. The average length of stay in Norway for each visitor is seven nights.

Business trips to Norway are predominantly made by persons living in Sweden, Denmark, the UK, the USA and Germany. 70 per cent of the business arrivals are based on air travel, and more than half of their guest nights are spent in hotel accommodations or the like. There have been only minor changes in this traffic over the past three-year period.

The number of foreign *holiday travellers* visiting Norway has dropped by six per cent in terms of arrivals and eight per cent in terms of guest nights in the three-year period 1998 – 2000. 50 per cent of these border crossing arrivals are registered on the roads between Norway and Sweden or Finland. Germany, Sweden and Denmark are the most important foreign source markets for foreign holiday traffic in Norway, but also Finland, the UK, the Netherlands and the USA provide significant tourist volumes. These vacationers are equally distributed among the four main types of accommodations: hotels, camping facilities, cabins and stays with friends and relatives.

50 per cent of the 33,000 foreign motor homes in Norway are of German origin. There has been a decline in the number of motor homes and motor vehicles with caravans from abroad in the latest period. The number of coaches visiting Norway dropped from 18,000 to 15,000 in the year 2000.